

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 February 2001 (22.02.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/12448 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B41M 7/00**,
B42D 15/10, B41M 5/00

Caroline [GB/GB]; 39 Lanercost Way, Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 9DL (GB). **CLIFTON, Andrew** [GB/GB]; 1 Norwich Road, Claydon, Ipswich IP6 0DQ (GB). **BUTTERS, Alan** [GB/GB]; 17 Mowlands, Capel St Mary, Suffolk IP9 2XB (GB).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/02794

(22) International Filing Date: 20 July 2000 (20.07.2000)

(74) Agent: **KEITH W NASH & CO.**; 90-92 Regent Street, Cambridge CB2 1DP (GB).

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(81) Designated States (*national*): JP, US.

(30) Priority Data:
9919159.5 14 August 1999 (14.08.1999) GB

(84) Designated States (*regional*): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES PLC** [GB/GB]; Imperial Chemical House, Millbank, London SW1P 3JF (GB).

Published:

— *With international search report.*

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **DOUBLE, Julie,**

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: THERMALLY-TRANSFERABLE POLYESTER IMAGE-PROTECTING LAYER

(57) Abstract: A thermal transfer medium for use in mass transfer printing comprises a substrate bearing on at least part of one surface thereof a coating of an overlay material comprising polyester having a glass transition greater than 50 °C (preferably at least 75 °C) and a molecular weight in the range 6,000 to 10,000. The overlay material combines good transfer characteristics, barrier properties and durability and is highly transparent.

WO 01/12448 A1

